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President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(c) Statistics (E/2016/24)

1. **Ms. Bivar** (Brazil), Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Brazil, introduced the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/2016/24). Reviewing the outcome of the most recent session, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in New York, she said that the Commission had worked intensively over the previous year on developing a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators that it had established at its forty-sixth session. Developing those indicators had been an inclusive and transparent process, had involved a large number of stakeholders and had been led by statistical experts from Member States. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission had agreed with the proposed global indicator framework as a practical starting point, although it had recognized that the development of a robust and high-quality framework remained an ongoing process. It had emphasized that the 230 proposed indicators were intended for global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and were not necessarily applicable to all national contexts, and had stressed that national ownership remained key to achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, national reviews were voluntary and country-led, they would take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and they would respect policy space and priorities for all countries. Improving data disaggregation was fundamental for the full implementation of the indicator framework and to fully respect the principle of leaving no one behind. Going forward, countries would have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which would require accessible, appropriate and high-quality data. Implementing the indicator framework would be a challenge in many countries and capacity-building would be particularly important in developing countries, especially African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

2. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was preparing a global action plan for sustainable development data, and had decided to organize a United Nations World Data Forum to facilitate the discussion of such data. The High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group had also established a joint subgroup to address the specific data needs identified during preparation of the indicators and to ensure that both groups worked together in an effective and coordinated manner. At its third meeting, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group had decided to work on data disaggregation and to create three thematic working subgroups on geospatial information, on standard data and metadata exchange, and on interlinkages between the indicators and targets. In that regard, she highlighted the importance of geospatial information for the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the work being done by the United Nations through the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group would continue its work on the basis of the road map agreed at its third meeting, which outlined the main steps required to finalize the tier system, to refine the indicators where necessary and to review the indicator framework in the coming years, as requested by the Commission. Meanwhile, the statistical community was already working intensively to compile the available data, thereby ensuring that all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets would be appropriately reviewed and the data effectively used for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3. **Ms. Regueira** (Observer for Cuba) said that while the global indicator framework was a significant starting point, it would require further technical refinement. Progress should continue to take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. It would also require sufficient policy space for the development of follow-up indicators at the regional and national levels; a central role for national statistical offices in providing official data and drafting national follow-up reports on the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; the use of transparent methodologies and high-quality, timely, verifiable and reliable data; and the building of

statistical capacity, particularly in developing countries.

4. As recognized in the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1), in several cases, not all the multiple aspects of the targets were addressed by the indicators and, in such cases, the statistical community would need to identify indicators to complement the existing ones. Indicator 3.5.2 in particular required further adjustments, since its current wording reduced the scope of application of target 3.5 and was in fact a biased version of what had been agreed by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the harmful use of alcohol. In that regard WHO had recognized that the focus should not be on consumption per se, but rather on harmful consumption. Using per capita consumption as the only indicator was inadequate as it did not differentiate between moderate and harmful consumption, or indicate and therefore address consumption outside the legal age limits. The indicator currently failed to recognize that WHO and its governing bodies had primary responsibility for establishing international health regulations, standards and goals. It also restricted the freedom of Member States to adopt more suitable and comprehensive policies to address the harmful consumption of alcohol.

5. While the global indicator framework was the linchpin for all that Member States hoped to achieve over the next 15 years, its limitations could harm the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Further work was therefore urgently required, with the involvement and cooperation of all countries, to produce a framework that faithfully reflected the desired outcomes of the 2030 Agenda, as part of the quest for a fairer and more equitable international order.

6. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico), noting the importance of the series of indicators drawn up by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, said that Mexico, which had served as Co-Chair of the Group, wished to acknowledge the leading role played by its National Institute of Statistics and Geography and reaffirmed its commitment to working jointly with other stakeholders to implement and review the 2030 Agenda. Mexico would continue to share its experiences and lessons learned regarding the collection of data and the generation of reliable and verifiable statistics.

Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

7. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/2016/24).

8. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(i) Cartography (E/2015/46 and E/2016/47; E/CONF.104/9)

9. **Mr. Ocampo** (Observer for Mexico), Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, introducing the report of the Committee of Experts (E/2015/46), said that, at its fifth session, the Committee had discussed, inter alia, the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joint initiatives to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support sustainable development and related global agendas. The Committee invited the Council to approve the provisional agenda, dates and documentation for the sixth session of the Committee, as set out in its report.

10. Introducing the programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts (E/2016/47), he said that the review report, which had been prepared in response to the request contained in Council resolution 2011/24, highlighted the Committee's considerable achievements to date and showed that it was well placed to continue contributing to the work of the United Nations, especially in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It provided a welcome and unique opportunity for the Council to strengthen the mandate and coordination of the global geospatial community through the Council's subsidiary machinery in the field of geospatial information.

11. At its fifth session, in decision 5/113, the Committee had agreed that a call for strengthening its mandate was appropriate and needed. Furthermore, the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific had adopted a resolution, contained in the report of the Conference (E/CONF.104/9), in which it supported the mandate of

the Committee of Exerts to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the United Nations, agreed that the formal United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference format was no longer a requirement, and recommended that the United Nations should consider removing the Conference for Asia and the Pacific from its calendar of conferences and meetings. Its mandates and obligations would be assumed by the Committee of Experts at the global level, and its technical and substantive activities at the regional level would be assumed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. A similar conclusion had been reached for the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas by United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas at its second plenary meeting.

12. In order to reach a broad consensus and agreement on the Committee's recommendations, including its future working methods and scope of work, a resolution would now need to be submitted to the Council to address the Committee's request to strengthen its position in coordinating the field of global geospatial information management within Member States and the broader United Nations system. Mexico would facilitate the negotiating process to that end over the coming weeks. Programme budget implications were likely, even though the Committee had striven to keep them to a minimum by streamlining regional cartographic conferences.

13. **Ms. Hua** Ye (China) said that the Committee of Experts provided a useful platform for cooperation among countries in the field of global geospatial information management and for strengthened capacity-building in developing countries. As one of the principal initiators of United Nations activities related to global geospatial information management, China had actively participated in the development of the Committee of Experts, had helped finance the establishment of a United Nations trust fund for capacity-building in global geospatial information management for developing countries, and stood ready to work with other Member States to actively study the relevant recommendations contained in the review report.

14. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) said that his delegation had also played an active part in the work of the Committee of Experts, which it had fully supported since 2011, and was very open to considering the proposal referred to by the Co-Chair of that Committee in view of the need to improve the coordination and management of geospatial information.

15. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico), highlighting the central role played by Mexico in global geospatial management capacity-building in developing countries and in the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, said that a way must be found to provide sustainable funding so that the Committee of Experts could fulfil its objective of supporting Member States, particularly developing countries, and the United Nations system, in following up on the 2030 Agenda and the other priorities related to geospatial management. The Organization needed to be able to regulate geospatial information, which was at present generated by various bodies within the United Nations system. Her delegation therefore supported the proposal to strengthen the Committee of Experts.

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee

16. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Committee of Experts on its fifth session (E/2015/46).

17. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements (E/2016/54)

18. **Ms. Djacta** (United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2016/54), said that with the world's urban population projected to rise to 6.5 billion by 2050, sustainable development would be impossible without transforming the way urban spaces were built and managed. Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda constituted recognition of cities as catalysts for development.

19. The report provided a description of the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations

system at the global, regional and national levels. In particular, the Programme had contributed to preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which should result in a global commitment to sustainable urbanization through a new urban agenda. She encouraged all Member States to participate actively in the preparatory process for that Conference.

20. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had prepared the World Cities Report 2015, which would serve as a background document for Habitat III. UN-Habitat had continued to chair the High-level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda. The working group's draft report and draft joint statement on urbanization and sustainable development had recently been approved by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

21. The World Urban Campaign, an instrumental means of promoting urbanization issues and solutions, had grown considerably in terms of visibility and membership. The Campaign had launched a General Assembly of Partners as a deliberative platform for non-governmental partners for the Habitat III Conference.

22. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had continued to participate actively in the Sustainable Development Goals process and was currently preparing a toolkit for local implementation of the Goals, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

23. Based on a UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution, the League of Arab States-affiliated Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction had established the Arab Ministerial Forum of Housing and Urban Development, with a view to addressing housing and sustainable development challenges in the Arab region. The first forum had been held in Egypt in December 2015, culminating in the adoption by the Arab countries of the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

24. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had also cooperated with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing a range of activities. UN-Habitat continued to develop the City Prosperity Initiative, a global monitoring framework for the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda that was the expected outcome of the Habitat III Conference. The Initiative was being implemented in more than 300 cities. The September 2015 roll-out of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Marker had been a landmark achievement in gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

25. Lastly, she drew attention to paragraph 117 of the report, which contained four recommendations for consideration by Member States.

26. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that, overall, the United States supported the work of UN-Habitat and many of the principles, approaches and projects in the report under consideration, including the priority given by UN-Habitat to partnering with local governments and their associations. In order to be most effective, UN-Habitat should find ways to partner with and empower local governments, communities and constituents instead of taking on more projects or broadening its scope. The most effective community planning and development came from local governments working directly with citizens and receiving wide support from other organizations, such as UN-Habitat and non-profit organizations. Her delegation also encouraged the integration of the Sendai Framework and related recommendations into urban planning and community development, including in the planning and implementation of UN-Habitat projects. However, UN-Habitat should not necessarily have to own such implementation, and funding the Programme for that purpose was not necessarily the most effective or efficient way to integrate the Sendai Framework.

27. The City Prosperity Initiative and UN-Habitat capacity-building work should take into account the complementary related efforts of private sector, non-governmental and governmental organizations to promote collaboration, fill data gaps and build local demand and capacity for analysing and using data. Those efforts should be integrated into national and subnational planning and development processes, including at the city level. While the City Prosperity Initiative could play a useful role in aggregating and integrating those efforts, especially to feed into United Nations-driven global monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, it should not purport to supplant or subsume them, but rather should encourage and support grassroots work by diverse stakeholders.

28. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data was building a global ecosystem and marketplace for the collection, analysis and use of data at the national and local levels. In that context, the United States strongly encouraged UN-Habitat not only to engage with the Global Partnership in developing and defining the role of the City Prosperity Initiative but also to lend its constructive expertise to building the data capacity of diverse stakeholders in order to implement and monitor those Sustainable Development Goals that were relevant to urban and subnational issues.

29. Identifying data gaps and building data collection, analysis and usage capacity at the subnational level was critical not only in order to monitor and advance the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to support decision-making, priority-setting and the development of innovative solutions to challenges.

30. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico) said that her delegation supported the adoption of the report. Strengthening programme governance would be fundamental to ensuring the coherence of efforts by UN-Habitat and other agencies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11. Her Government, which had established a new ministry on territorial and urban policies, had sponsored two preparatory meetings for the Habitat III Conference and was currently formulating national legislation to be adopted before the Conference. Mexico was committed to ensuring that the necessary agreements were reached at the Conference to establish a new model of urban development, to tackle urbanization challenges and to make cities more prosperous.

(k) Assistance to third States affected by the applications of sanctions

31. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under the sub-item and no draft proposal was before the Council.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2016/73 and E/2016/L.15/Rev.1)

Requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council

32. **The President** drew attention to the requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council (E/2016/73). The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to recommend that the organizations mentioned in that document should be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its 2016 session. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

33. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision E/2016/L.15/Rev.1: Economic and Social Council event to discuss the transition from relief to development

34. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

35. *Draft decision E/2016/L.15/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/71/76-E/2016/55)

36. **Ms. Zubcevic** (Division for Sustainable Development), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55), said that the signing in 2015 of the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement had given added urgency to the need to mainstream approaches to sustainable development throughout the United Nations system.

37. The report built on the three progress reports submitted since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and provided an update on milestones and preparatory steps taken, focusing on the work done by the United Nations system to maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Specific illustrations of those efforts included a study of the steps taken by UN-Water to address the water-energy-food nexus and an examination of the development-humanitarian nexus as an emerging approach for cross-disciplinary system-wide integration. Moreover, the report delineated the

United Nations system's institutional framework for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

38. She drew attention to paragraph 62 of the report, which contained a set of recommendations for the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.